

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

EUCOM

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 5106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: DEMIREL CONTINUES EFFORTS FOR NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT,
CRITICIZES ECEVIT

REF: ANKARA 5078 (DTG 061120Z JUL 77)

1. PRIMIN-DESIGNATE SULEYMAN DEMIREL IS CONTINUING HIS GOVERN-
MENT-FORMATION EFFORTS AT A VERY MEASURED PACE. ON JULY 7 HE
HAS A MORNING MEETING WITH NECMETTIN ERBAKAN, LEADER OF THE
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RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALIST NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (SNP) AND AN
AFTERNOON MEETING WITH ALPASLAN TURKES, LEADER OF THE FAR-
RIGHT NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP). DEMIREL, WHO ON JULY 5
RECEIVED FULL AUTHORIZATION FROM THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF HIS CENTER-RIGHT JUSTICE PARTY (JP) FOR FORMATION OF
A COALITION GOVERNMENT, REPORTEDLY COMPLETED HIS CONSULTATIONS
WITH JP ORGANS JULY 6 WITH A MEETING OF THE PARTY'S JOINT

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP.

2. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, DEMIREL CRITICIZED CARETAKER PRIMIN BULENT ECEVIT'S REPEATED CLAIMS THAT NO GOVERNMENT CAN GOVERN WITHOUT TAKING ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) INTO ACCOUNT (REFTEL). DEMIREL SAID THAT ONLY HALF OF THE SENATE'S 150 ELECTED MEMBERS WERE RPP MEMBERS, AND THAT BY CLAIMING A SENATE MAJORITY ON THE BASIS OF LIKE-MINDED NON-ELECTED SENATORS (PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED SENATORS AND LIFE SENATORS). ECEVIT SHOWED A DESIRE TO "GO BEYOND THE NATION'S WILL." DEMIREL SAID THAT IF THE NATION'S WILL CAN BE OVERRIDDEN, IT WOULD POINT UP A DEFECT OF THE PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE REMEDIED. DEMIREL ASKED RHETORICALLY IF THE RPP INTENDED TO VOTE AGAINST ALL BILLS BROUGHT TO THE SENATE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR UTILITY, AND SAID THAT BILLS REJECTED BY THE SENATE COULD STILL BE PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNLESS THE RPP WERE TO USE IRRESPONSIBLE DELAYING TACTICS. DEMIREL SAID IF THE RPP FAILED TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY AS A LOYAL OPPOSITION, IT WOULD BE THE RPP WHICH WOULD LOSE.

3. DEMIREL ALSO CRITICIZED ECEVIT'S CARETAKER GOVERNMENT FOR CONTINUING TO MAKE PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT EVEN AFTER LOSING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE JULY 3, PARTICULARLY FOR MAKING PARTISAN CHANGES IN TURKISH RADIO TELEVISION'S (TRT) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND IN THE DIRECTORSHIP OF TARIS COOPERATIVE. DEMIREL SAID THAT SUCH PARTISAN BEHAVIOR BY A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAILED EVER TO GET A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WAS JUST A TASTE OF WHAT AN RPP GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE DONE IF IT HAD WON THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, AND, REFERRING TO EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT THE JP WOULD CONSIDER ALL ACTS OF THE RPP MINORTIY GOVERNMENT TO BE ILLEGITIMATE, DEMIREL SAID ALL THOSE ACTS WOULD BE CANCELLED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT THAT HE WOULD FORM WINS ITS CONFIDENCE VOTE.

4. SPEAKING BEFORE HIS PARTY'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GROUP, NAP CHAIRMAN TURKES ALSO CRITICIZED THE RPP GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING "WHOLESALE" TRANSFERS AND ASSIGNMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN TRT, THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, AND THE TRADE MINISTRY, "LIKE SOMEONE SAVING HIS GOODS FROM A FIRE." TURKES SAID THESE ACTIONS "MAKE THE NEXT GOVERNMENT'S JOB HARDER AND LEAD TO TENSION AND UNEASE IN INTERPARTY RELATIONS."

5. COMMENT: THE ALACRITY WITH WHICH THE RPP HAS BEEN MAKING CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER LOSING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, HAS INDEED BEEN NOTEWORTHY. ACCORDING TO JULY 7 HURRIYET, 1496 ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE OR APPROVED SINCE THE RPP CABINET TOOK OFFICE JUNE 21. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL IS STILL NEEDED FOR MANY OF THESE, SOME, INCLUDING THE OUSTER OF THE TRT GENERAL DIRECTOR AND ONE TRT BOARD MEMBER,

AND THEIR REPLACEMENT ON THE TRT BOARD BY RPP PARTISANS, HAVE
ALREADY BEEN APPROVED. THE OLD DIRECTOR OF TARIS CEDED HIS POST
UNDER PROTEST, WITH A HEAVY POLICE ESCORT REQUIRED TO INSTALL THE
NEW DIRECTOR IN HIS OFFICE. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT MANY OF THEIR SUPPORTERS ARE BEING REMOVED FROM APPOINTIVE
OFFICES WITH EACH PASSING DAY WOULD ADD TO THE PRESSURE ON THE
RIGHTIST PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER ONES, TO COME TO TERMS
AND FORM A GOVERNMENT. DILLON

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